## DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE 100 NORTH SENATE AVENUE IGC-N, ROOM N1058 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

IN THE MATTER OF THE REVIEW OF PROPOSED	)
LANGUAGE FOR A BALLOT QUESTION REGARDING	) No. 11-007-REF
ZIONSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, BOONE COUNTY	)

## FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED QUESTION SUBMITTED JULY 12, 2011

- 1. Zionsville Community Schools ("School Corporation") plans to seek voter approval to refinance 10% of its outstanding bonded indebtedness. Voter approval would reduce the semi-annual interest payment on that debt. It would also extend the life of that debt for up to ten years longer. The tax rate to pay debt service would remain the same. The money saved on interest through what is essentially refinancing could then be transferred to and spent out of other school funds.
- 2. Under Indiana law, voters within the School Corporation district are entitled to vote in a referendum to approve or deny the issuance of refunding bonds. According to information provided by the School Corporation, the increased debt service from restructuring the debt would amount to \$9,513,831.
- 3. Indiana law governs the format and wording of the ballot question for the referendum.
- 4. Under Indiana law, the "question to be submitted to the voters in the referendum must read as follows":

"Shall \_\_\_\_\_\_ (insert the name of the school corporation) issue refunding bonds to refund not more than fifty percent (50%) of its outstanding bonds to provide an annual savings to the school's debt service fund that can be transferred from the school's debt service fund to the school's capital projects fund, transportation fund, or school bus replacement fund?"

Indiana Code 5-1-5-2.5(d)(2)(B) (emphasis added).

5. According to IC 5-1-5-2.5(d)(2)(B), the referendum is to be conducted pursuant to the process prescribed by IC 20-46-1. Consistent with that process, the Department of Local Government Finance ("Department") reviews proposed language for a referendum on issuing refunding bonds for compliance with IC 5-1-5-2.5(d)(2)(B) and will either approve or reject the language.

- 6. On July 12, 2011, the Department received the School Corporation's proposed ballot question for the referendum.
- 7. The School Corporation requested that the Department review the following proposed question:

"Shall Zionsville Community Schools issue refunding bonds to refund not more than ten percent (10%) of its outstanding bonds to provide an annual savings to the school's debt service fund that can be transferred from the school's debt service fund to the school's capital projects fund, transportation fund, or school bus replacement fund?"

## Compliance

8. The Department reviewed the proposed question for compliance with IC 5-1-5-2.5(d)(2)(B). The Department concludes that the School Corporation's proposed question is in compliance with IC 5-1-5-2.5(d)(2)(B) and hereby certifies it for inclusion on the ballot.

## **Final Determination**

WHEREFORE, based on the above findings and applicable law, the Department finds that the proposed question is in compliance with IC 5-1-5-2.5(d)(2)(B) and certifies it for inclusion on the ballot.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2011.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Brian E. Bailey, Commissioner

Department of Local Government Finance

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

I, Micah G. Vincent, General Counsel for the Department of Local Government Finance, hereby certify that the above is an order of the Commissioner of the Department of Local Government Finance made this date in the above-entitled matter and that the Commissioner has personally signed the same under his statutory authority.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of the Commissioner on this the 22nd day of July, 2011.

Micah G. Vincent, General Counsel

Department of Local Government Finance